

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Official Action mailed September 9, 2004 and the Advisory Action of November 17, 2004. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendment claims 1, 3 and 6–10 are canceled. Claims 2, 4 and 11 are amended into independent form without any change in scope or language. Thus, claims 2, 4, 5 and 11 are currently pending for further action upon entry of this amendment.

The Final Office Action indicates the presence of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 4, 5 and 11. See Final Office Action, paragraph 3. Applicant wishes to thank Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 2, 4 and 11 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.” Id. Consequently, Applicant has filed the present amendment in which claims 2, 4 and 11 are presented in amended, independent form, claim 5 is presented in its previously presented form and all other claims are canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, the present application should be in clear condition for allowance based on the position of the Office given in the Final Office Action of September 9, 2004.

The cancellation herein of claims 1, 3 and 6–10 is without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file divisional or continuation applications to the canceled claims or to any other subject matter disclosed in the present patent application.


Entry and consideration of this amendment are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 for at least the following reasons. The present amendment amends three formerly dependent claims to present those claims in independent form. It maintains claim 5 in its previously presented, allowable form and cancels all other claims. The amendment does not raise new issues requiring further search or consideration, and the amendment places the application in

condition for allowance. Therefore, entry of the present amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 116 and is hereby requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests the Office to withdraw the pending grounds of rejection and allow the pending claims. If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Supplemental Request for Reconsideration, including a fee for any extension of time not accounted for above, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0013/64671.0480.

Respectfully Submitted,

By   
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